

Table 1  
An overview of the literature review.

| Authors                       | Aim                                                                                                                                                                   | Characteristics                                                          |                                                      |                                                            |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
|                               |                                                                                                                                                                       | Methodology                                                              | Setting                                              | Participants                                               |
| Ahmad et al. (2014)           | To analyze the start-up motivation factors and business challenges                                                                                                    | Multi-method (questionnaire and interviews)                              | Malaysia                                             | Home-stay accommodation businesses                         |
| Ahmad (2015)                  | To investigate the determinants and characteristics of the owners/managers of SMS hotels                                                                              | Multi-method (questionnaire and semi-structured face to face interviews) | United Arab Emirates (Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Fujairah) | SMS Hotels                                                 |
| Andersson et al. (2002)       | To investigate the goals of family businesses in the rural tourism and hospitality sector                                                                             | Cross-case comparison (9 cases)                                          | Sweden, Canada and Australia                         | STH family firms in rural areas or small cities            |
| Andriotis (2002)              | Influence of small local firms on economic development                                                                                                                | Questionnaire                                                            | Greece (island of Crete)                             | Owner-managers of accommodation units                      |
| Ateljevic (2007)              | To identify issues that affect management practice of SHTF                                                                                                            | Multi-method (questionnaire and in depth interviews)                     | New Zealand (four regions)                           | SHTF                                                       |
| Ateljevic (2009)              | To examine the entrepreneurial behavior of SHTF and their ability to contribute to regional development                                                               | Multi-method (in-depth interviews and a questionnaire)                   | New Zealand (Wairarapa)                              | SHTF; public and private sector organizations and agencies |
| Ateljevic and Doorne (2000)   | The value position and motivating values of small-scale lifestyle entrepreneurs                                                                                       | Qualitative (in-depth interviews; ethnographic fieldwork over 7 years)   | Across New Zealand                                   | SHTF (owners, managers and employees)                      |
| Ateljevic and Doorne (2003)   | To identify and understand cultural complexities around tourism entrepreneurs                                                                                         | Multi-method (in depth interviews, observation and questionnaire)        | Croatia (Murter village)                             | SHTF                                                       |
| Banki and Ismail (2015)       | To investigate the characteristics of family owned tourism micro businesses in mountain destinations in developing countries                                          | Semi-structured face-to-face in-depth interviewing                       | Nigeria (Obudu Mountain region)                      | Family owned SHTF in rural areas                           |
| Chen and Elston (2013)        | To investigate characteristics of small restaurant owners in China                                                                                                    | Questionnaire                                                            | China (four cities)                                  | Small restaurants                                          |
| Gartner (2004)                | To examine factors affecting SHTF                                                                                                                                     | Questionnaire                                                            | Africa (central Region of Ghana)                     | Small hotels and restaurants                               |
| Glancey and Pettigrew (1997)  | To examine the nature of entrepreneurial activity in the small hotel sector                                                                                           | Questionnaire                                                            | Scotland (St Andrews)                                | Small hotels                                               |
| Hall and Rusher (2004)        | To investigate the profile of B&B operations and their attitude about the risk and lifestyle                                                                          | Questionnaire                                                            | New Zealand (North Island)                           | B&B                                                        |
| Hallak et al. (2012)          | To examine how place identity, entrepreneurial self-efficacy, and support for community influence the performance of SHTF                                             | Confirmatory factor analysis and structural equation modeling            | South Australia                                      | SHTF                                                       |
| Ioannides and Petersen (2003) | To investigate the key characteristics and innovation levels among the SHTF                                                                                           | In depth structured interviews                                           | Denmark (island of Bornholm)                         | Owners and managers of SHTF                                |
| Jaafar et al. (2011)          | To examine the characteristics of small and medium hotel owners/managers and the issues and problems they confront in relation to their survivability in the industry | Pilot study – (interviews)                                               | East Peninsular Malaysia                             | Small hotels                                               |
| Komppula (2004)               | To examine the growth motivations and definitions of success among rural tourism entrepreneurs                                                                        | Structured interviews in-depth interviews                                | Eastern Finland                                      | Rural H&T enterprises                                      |
| Lashley and Rowson (2010)     | To understand characteristics and motivational factors of small hotel owners                                                                                          | Questionnaire (through telephone interviews)                             | UK (Blackpool)                                       | Small hotel owners                                         |
| Morrison and Teixeira (2004)  | To investigate the characteristic of SHTF and their effects on performance                                                                                            | Semi-structured in-depth interviews                                      | Scotland (Glasgow)                                   | Accommodation units                                        |
| Mortier (2007)                | To examine the interaction between firms and within the location                                                                                                      | Semi-structured questionnaire through in-depth interviews                | Ireland (Westport)                                   | Lifestyle owners and local tourism representatives         |
| Page et al. (1999)            | To examine different characteristics of SHTF and their role in tourism                                                                                                | Questionnaire                                                            | New Zealand (Northland)                              | SHTF                                                       |
| Ramos-Rodriguez et al. (2012) | To assess the influence of certain factors on the likelihood of being a hotel and restaurant entrepreneur                                                             | Logistic regression (GEM data)                                           | 43 countries participating in GEM study              | Small hotels and restaurants                               |
| Saprunova (2004)              | To investigate factors which stimulate development of SHTF, key problems in their development and support measures.                                                   | Observation and insights over 10 years                                   | Russia                                               | SHTF                                                       |
| Shaw and Williams (1987)      | To investigate the formation and the operating features                                                                                                               | Questionnaire                                                            | England (Looe, south-east Cornwall)                  | SHTF                                                       |
| Zapalska and Brozik (2007)    | To examine the nature of SHTF and to analyze the business environment                                                                                                 | Telephone survey                                                         | Poland (6 southern regions)                          | SHTF                                                       |
| Zhao and Getz (2008)          | To investigate and understand the characteristics and goals of rural family business owners                                                                           | Questionnaire                                                            | China (Guangxi Zhuang)                               | SHTF                                                       |